

REMARKS

By the above actions, claims 16, 19, 20, 21, 23, & 26 have been amended and claims 17 & 18 have been cancelled. In view of these actions and the following remarks, reconsideration of this application is requested.

At the outset, the undersigned wishes to thank the Examiner and his Primary Examiner for their courteous and open-minded consideration of the proposed claim changes that are embodied in the amendments above. As a result of the discussions at the interview, as reflected in the Interview Summary, it was indicated that the amendments proposed and now presented would overcome the outstanding rejection. Furthermore, it is believed in that, in the absence of new and more pertinent prior art being discovered, that the amended claims will now be allowed.

In particular, the applied prior art fails to teach a single spring-biased valve element that is movable into three different selectable positions (the recited first, second and intermediate positions) together with a settable control arrangement that has a first position in which movement of the valve element is possible only between the second position and the intermediate position and second position in which the valve element is movable into the first position. The Hoshino patent uses multiple valve elements to produce an aerosol and lacks the settable control arrangement of the present invention as well. Sagarin has a single valve element, but it is only movable between two positions and is not suited for causing a metered dose of the liquid to be discharged discontinuously or by more than one actuation of the valve element.

Thus, withdrawal of the rejections under §§ 102/103 based on Hoshino and that under § 103 based on the combined teachings of Hoshino and Sagarin should be withdrawn and action to that effect is requested.

Therefore, in the absence of new and more relevant prior art being discovered, this application should now be in condition for allowance and action to that effect is requested. However, while it is believed that this application should now be in condition for allowance, in the event that any issues should remain, or any new issues arise, after consideration of this response which could be addressed through discussions with the undersigned, then the

Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned by telephone for the purpose of resolving any such issue and thereby facilitating prompt approval of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Safran', written over a horizontal line.

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